

Vox Populi, Vox Dei

ENGLAND'S General Lamentation for the Dissolution

OF THE Parliament.

NO Popish Successor, No Popish Successor, is now the Voyle of the People, and if the Prayers of most of the Nation be heard, it will be also the Voyle of God, and England will be never so unhappy, as to see a Popish Idolater in the Throne. There is no Nation in the World so jealous of their Liberties as the English, and yet there is no Right or Privledge so dear to them, as their Religion. Their Consciences sway more with them, than their Purples or their Lives, and the Protestant Religion in this Nation and their Fathers have been so many Years bred, and under which they have seen so many happy days, freed from the Tyranny and oppressive Yoke of the Pope, is become so dear to them, that the apprehension only of the loss of it, has of late put them into these Dreadful Agonies, and apprehensive fears, by the general plotting of Popish Traitors, to bring in their Idolatry, even by taking away the Life of the King, and subverting the present Government; and by the prospect they have, of all those subsequent Evils, which are inevitably like to fall upon this Nation, by the means of a Popish Successor. For this Reason, the people seem to cry out with one Voyle, No Popish Successor, no Idolater, no Queen Mary in Breaches, no Tyrant over the Conscience, no new persecutor of Protestants in our Land.

That these Fears and Troubles might be allaid, that our Hopes might be renewed, of sitting down every Man in peace and tranquillity, being assured to enjoy our Religion undisturbed, and our Consciences unconstrained, and that Traitors, Malefactors, pernicious and evil counsellours, might be punished and removed, was all our Hopes in this Parliament, and that which made them so dear in the Eyes of the people, who of late thought that they might have Ap-

plied to themselves the prophesie of *Jeremiah*, That God would turn our mourning into joy; that he would comfort us and make us rejoice from our sorrow, *Jer. 31. 13.* For indeed, the drooping Spirits of most of the people of England, were suddenly revived and raised from trouble and affliction, by the calling of this late Parliament, and they blessed God, and gave Thanks for the great care and kindness of his Majesty, to and over his people: We were comforted, and we lifted up our Heads with rejoicing and acclamations, to see the comfortable beginnings of the King and his Parliament; and we began to think, that God and the King had wiped away Tears from all Faces.

But alas! how soon is our day Clouded! and how are we cast down in a moment! our Trust and our Confidence is broken, and God has turned our Feasts into Mourning, and all our Songs into Lamentation: shall not for this the Lord be able, and every one mourn that dwelleth therein? It is for our sins and iniquities that God suffereth this Calamity, that he permitteth our Hopes to be broken, and our Parliament to be Dissolved, and now, as if that prophesie of *Zachariah* were fulfilled in us; (*In that Day shall be great mourning in Jerusalem, as the Mourning of Hadadrimmon, in the Valley of Megiddon, and the Land shall mourn, every Family apart, all the Fathers of the people are filled with Trouble and Consolation; and every one mourneth apart, and in secret, and they cry out, What shall we do now, we have saved from the fearful Apprehensions of the day to come! How dejected are all Hearts! How troubled are all people at this Dissolution! How sensible are they of this so great unhappiness to the Nation! and with what consternation and lamentation is it entertained! By what Council or perswasion this comes about, we know not: we know the Hearts of Kings are Unsearchable, we question not the Wisdom and*

power of His Majesty, we know that it is by God that Kings Reign, and that he turneth their Hearts as the Rivers of Waters; but however this cometh to pass, we cannot but mourn and lament, to behold our Hopes so suddenly dash'd, and confounded: It is for our sins, doubtless, that this Evil is come upon us, and therefore let us first prostrate our selves humbly before the Lord, and then with one consent supplicate his Majesty to ease us of the burthen of our Fears, and to stop the mourning and lamentation of his most faithful Liege people.

Sure we have great cause to lament and to mourn, to see *Englands* most Worthy *Patriots* who were Assembled for the good of the King and the Kingdom, to be so soon scattered and dispersed, before they had brought to perfection their Good Intentions, whilst they were endeavouring to Establish the perpetual Happiness of the Nation, in securing our Religion, Rights, and Privileges, and in taking away our Fears and Jealousies: Such *Patriots* they were, as *Jethro* Advised *Moses* to choose, to Judge the people of *Israel*; Men fearing God, loving Truth, and having Covetousness. How happy was our Gracious King in such a Council! how happy the people of *England* in such Representatives! A Parliament that, had they Sat, would in after Ages been called a Blessed Parliament, a Parliament noted for four requisite Vertues, Religion, Wisdom, Courage, and Industry. That they were Religious, or Men fearing God, appears, that before all other things they begun with the securing to this Nation, the true Protestant Religion, established by Law, and what in them lay, to prevent the rushing in of Popery, which like an Inundation, is like to break our Banks, and to bring a deluge of Destruction and Persecution upon the Land. That they were Wise appears, because they were Men loving Truth, for Wisdom cannot stand without Truth. Honesty is the best Policy, tho' an Old saying, is a True one; for to deal freely and sincerely is a sign of Wisdom. They were such as would take off the Vizard-Mask of a most detestable Plot, as ever was hatch'd against a Nation, and that would have shewn the truth of all, that yet lyes lurking at the bottom. And at last, had they continued, we doubt not, but that the Nations round about us, would have been forced to have said by us as *Moses* Prophesied those of *Canaan* should say by the *Israelites*: Surely this Nation is a Wise and Understanding People: And if those many wise Laws and Statutes which were under the consideration and Wisdom of the late Parliament, had been brought to perfection, they would then

also have taken up the other part of that Prophecy of that Law-giver and Prophet, *Deut. 4. What Nation is there so great, that hath Statutes and Judgements so Righteous?* That they were Men of Courage appears, by their being no respecters of Persons, for that they spared no man for his Greatness and Might, nor despised any one for his meanness and Inability. They were bold assertors of the Liberties of the people, and in the ways of Righteousness feared no man. That they were men hating Covetousness, plainly appears by their Votes against a late Corruption of Pentioning: Gold would not blind their eyes, and being men of Estates, and abhorring Covetousness, they endeavoured to take away the Temptation. And lastly, that they were Indultrous, is manifested to all, by their pains they took, thinking it no labour night and day to serve their King and Country; and by the many useful and beneficial Acts, tending to the good and benefit of this Nation, which they were promoting with all indifatigable pains and Industry.

These are the Men that are Dissolved, their power broken, and our trust, hopes, and Confidence cast down. It is for this *England* laments & mourns; The City is afflicted, and the Country in Trouble, and all good and Loyal *Englishmen*, with dejected countenances, sad hearts, and wet eyes, bemoan their loss. It is now a time of Trial and Affliction, *Calamitas veritatis occasio est*. It is in Calamity that our Vertue will appear, let us not be afraid to petition His Majesty in this our Distress, let him behold our sad hearts, and our faces besprinkled with Tears; let him know our just fears, lay before him our Jealousies and Distresses, let him hear our Complaints and Lamentations, and let us not be dumb; and withal, let every one endeavour to reform himself, and publicly call upon God, to defend and protect us; For He is King of all the Earth; He is a God that doth Wonders; he hath declared his strength among the people: He is a Sun and a Shield; He will give Grace and Glory, and no Good thing withhold from them that walk uprightly: Therefore let us say with the Prophet *Ezay*, We will trust and not be afraid, for the Lord *Jehovah* is our strength, he is merciful and gracious; he will at last hear the Groans of his people, and swallow up Death with Victory, and wipe away Tears from all Faces, Amen, So be it.

FINIS.

1949 (54965) B.A. Rare Books

